

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending August 5, 2001

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Wheat, Potato, Hay, Vegetable, Fruit and Berry Harvest Continued
Excellent Sales Reported on Farmer's Market Produce**

FIELD CROPS

Winter and spring grain harvest continued across the state, with mixed yields reported. Stormy weather caused some wheat lodging in the northwest area of Washington. Pea and lentil harvest began. Potato harvest progressed, with good reports of quality and prices. Christmas tree growers continued to top work Noble firs.

LIVESTOCK

Range and pasture conditions continued to decline due to dry weather, with 8% very poor, 48% poor, 34% fair, and 10% good. Hay and silage harvest continued. Dairy operations were applying liquid manure. Few eastern Washington counties reported feed shortages.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Vegetable, berry, stone-fruit and soft-fruit harvest continued. Excellent farmers' market sales were reported on organic and hothouse produce. Some deer browsing damage was done to U-Pick vegetable farms. Artichokes were thriving due to near perfect conditions.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
6.7	6.9

Soil Moisture	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
Soil Type	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	13	52	35	-
Subsoil	20	55	25	-
Irrigation Water	-	15	85	-
Hay and Roughage	-	10	90	-

VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	22	6	21	12
Winter Wheat Harvested	45	19	46	35
Barley Harvested	13	8	22	16
Potatoes Harvested	15	10	17	12
Dry Peas Harvested	16	15	24	21
Alfalfa, 2 nd cutting	92	90	96	95
Alfalfa, 3 rd cutting	30	12	24	21

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	11	45	42	-
Winter Wheat Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Spring Wheat Dryland	9	30	42	19	-
Spring Wheat Irrigated	-	-	5	95	-
Barley Dryland	5	29	42	24	-
Barley Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Dry Beans	-	-	-	100	-
Corn	-	-	-	100	-
Potatoes	-	-	5	95	-

VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Clallam/Jefferson: The weather was cooler and windier than normal. Some areas received rain late in the week. Hay harvest continued, as weather permitted.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Timely rains and cool weather helped to offset the shortage of rain. Corn growth was behind schedule due to the below normal temperatures.

Grays Harbor (2nd Report): Light rainfall, early in the week, did little to alleviate dry soil conditions. Christmas tree growers reported sunburn damage on true firs. U-Pick vegetable growers continued to report significant losses due to deer feeding on selected crops. Artichoke fields continued to thrive under nearly ideal climatic conditions. Hothouse tomato growers were overwhelmed with prolific fruit set.

Skagit: A small amount of rain, which caused some wheat lodging, wasn't enough to meet plant needs on nonirrigated fields. Potato vine killing began. Raspberry harvest ended, with average yields. Blueberry harvest was underway, with the crop maturing about a week later than normal—due to below normal summer temperatures. The pea crop was looking good, with yields over 2 tons per

acre and some growers reporting 3 tons per acre.

Snohomish/Clallam: Cooler than normal temperatures continued throughout the week. Cloudy mornings, with a few afternoon sun breaks and a few showers, made the weather feel and look more like spring than summer. A lot of wheat in north Snohomish County was blown down by recent wind and rain. There were no reports of damage due to weather conditions.

Thurston/Pierce: Crop conditions were still favorable. No unusual situations occurred during the week.

Thurston (2nd Report): Cooler temperatures helped reduce irrigation requirements by commercial turfgrass producers. On the other hand, blueberry growers continued to report that berries have been slow to ripen, due to the lack of heat units. Dairymen continued applying liquid manure to forage fields and harvesting green chop. Christmas tree growers continued doing top work on Noble fir. Organic truck farmers continued to report excellent sales for both vegetables and small fruit at Farmer's Markets in the Seattle metropolitan area. Raspberry and blackberry harvest continued under nearly ideal conditions.

CENTRAL

Benton: Soft fruit harvest continued. Grapes were beginning to change color, under excellent growing conditions. Summer vegetables were being harvested.

Franklin: Unseasonably cool weather, at the beginning of the week, was up to 15-20 degrees below normal. The third cutting of hay continued strongly throughout the week. Dryland wheat harvest was finished by the end of the week, with average to below average yields reported. Most of the dryland spring and re-crop yields were in the low teens down to 5 bushels to an acre for a low extreme. Onion harvest continued. Potato harvest continued. Signs of minimal hail damage was reported on northern apple orchards, from the late June thunderstorm. Much of the county's grass seed was cut and/or combined by the week's end.

Franklin (2nd Report): The weather continued to be warm and dry. Wheat, carrots, potatoes, sweet corn, and alfalfa were being harvested.

Grant: Harvest on a multitude of crops was progressing well. Dryland yields were lower than the past few years, but respectable considering low rainfall. Early potato quality was very good, along with the price for fresh pack. Yields on vegetable seed crops were good pending germination results.

Grant (2nd Report): Sweet corn harvest continued. Grass seed harvest was complete.

Kittitas: Irrigated pastures were suffering due to lack of precipitation and irrigation water. Hay cuttings were finishing up. Corn and potatoes throughout the valley looked good. Lower elevation rangeland was in poor condition.

EASTERN

Adams: Winter wheat harvest was nearly complete, with yields reports mostly at or just below the ten year average. Spring planted cereals have been mostly a disaster, with spring wheat yields ranging from less than 10 to 25 bushels an acre. The quality of both winter and spring cereals will be down this year, with elevated protein levels in soft white wheat and lower test weight overall.

Asotin/Garfield: Wheat harvest continued with mixed reports on yields, some good, some bad. Some producers were feeding hay due to the poor condition of the pastures.

Garfield (2nd Report): Harvest picked up speed except in the higher elevations. Yields were average, at best, for winter wheat. Spring barley was just being cut in lower areas of the county, with yields below average in quality and weight.

Lincoln: Harvesting in the southern part of the county was slowed due to scattered showers; reported heavy at times, with up to an inch of precipitation in some areas. Winter wheat yields were reported normal to a little below, with increased protein and lower test weight. Spring wheat yields were in the high teens to lower twenties. Next week, harvest should be underway in the northern part of the county.

Stevens: Range and pasture conditions continued to deteriorate. Hay was in short supply locally.

Whitman: Grain harvest progressed across the county. Some winter wheat yields were considered quite good, but grain yields on most re-crop ground was well below average. Pea and lentil harvest began, with early yield reports generally near average or just below average.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

August 6, 2001

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	49	69	60	-4	72	-19	7	-21	0.92	0.64	3	27.39	-7.68	78	144
Everett	50	73	62	-3	87	-11	19	-9	0.18	-0.10	3	24.61	-10.76	70	143
Hoquiam	49	65	58	-4	57	-20	0	-14	0.57	0.33	4	43.62	-23.22	65	165
Kelso	48	82	64	-2	97	-8	27	-8	0.02	-0.21	1	19.95	-25.45	44	125
Olympia	43	75	61	-4	79	-19	13	-15	0.13	-0.08	3	30.32	-19.33	61	140
Seattle-Tacoma	51	74	62	-4	87	-25	18	-24	0.22	0.03	3	25.11	-11.21	69	130
Shelton	46	72	60	-7	72	-40	5	-37	0.41	0.20	4	41.18	-22.89	64	146
Tacoma	46	77	63	-3	88	-17	20	-18	0.00	-0.21	0	26.53	-12.72	68	134
Vancouver	52	84	67	2	121	11	51	9	0.38	0.17	3	23.38	-17.00	58	143
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	44	86	66	-4	112	-21	42	-21	0.00	-0.07	0	6.98	-1.64	81	72
Omak	44	91	68	-1	131	-1	61	-2	0.00	-0.21	0	6.08	-8.08	43	66
Stampede Pass	40	70	53	-5	24	-25	0	-7	0.02	-0.30	2	54.21	-25.42	68	171
Wenatchee	53	88	71	-4	148	-24	78	-22	0.00	-0.07	0	5.53	-2.42	70	67
Yakima AP	46	88	67	-5	121	-26	51	-26	0.00	-0.07	0	4.75	-2.89	62	63
NORTHEAST															
Colville	45	92	69	2	132	8	62	6	0.05	-0.16	1	12.85	-7.47	63	79
Deer Park	35	89	63	-8	96	-44	31	-39	0.12	-0.02	1	13.21	-4.67	74	115
Spokane AP	41	88	66	-5	115	-25	47	-23	0.12	-0.02	2	10.32	-5.59	65	100
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	47	91	69	-7	138	-44	68	-44	0.03	-0.04	2	5.27	-1.76	75	69
Moses Lake	47	91	69	-7	137	-45	67	-45	0.00	-0.07	0	6.51	-0.52	93	65
Quincy	47	89	69	-4	131	-23	61	-23	0.00	-0.07	0	5.15	-2.38	68	57
Ritzville	47	88	66	-5	113	-27	43	-27	0.73	0.66	1	9.92	-1.05	90	76
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	54	94	74	-6	168	-35	98	-35	0.00	-0.07	0	6.17	-0.05	99	64
Pasco	50	95	73	-4	162	-19	92	-18	0.08	0.01	1	7.63	0.46	106	73
Pullman	47	87	66	-2	115	-4	45	-4	0.02	-0.15	1	13.12	-7.25	64	106
Walla Walla AP	53	93	70	-7	141	-42	71	-41	0.01	-0.13	1	15.44	-3.38	82	95
Whitman Mission	43	92	65	-7	109	-45	40	-44	0.06	-0.08	2	14.09	0.85	106	101
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A'AP	39	90	64	-8	102	-45	38	-39	0.00	-0.23	0	16.33	-8.56	66	101
Lewiston ID	57	94	71	-5	151	-28	81	-25	0.09	-0.05	1	11.80	0.04	100	104

Summary based on NWS data.

Season CUMulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2000

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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